

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SP-02

L-03 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 USIE-00

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TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM

SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: WORKING GROUP ON
MIGRANT WORKERS TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS MARCH 1

1. AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE HRC WORKING GROUP ON
THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS HELD FEBRUARY 27 THE
CHAIRMAN (TURKEY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE THIRD AND LAST
MEETING OF THE GROUP ON MARCH 1 WOULD HAVE BEFORE IT
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTIONS ON THE MIGRANT WORKERS
ISSUE.

2. THE MOST NOTABLE PROPOSAL OF THE FEW PUT FORWARD
BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE GROUP IS THE SOVIET CALL FOR A NEW
DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS, LEADING TO
AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. OTHERS, NOTABLY COLOMBIA
AND ITALY, HAVE CALLED FOR STUDIES ON SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS
BEARING ON MIGRANT WORKERS, E.G., A SURVEY OF BILATERAL
TREATIES, A STUDY OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES' SOCIAL SECURITY LAWS.

3. USDEL HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENT SO FAR. HOWEVER,
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WE INDICATED PRIVATELY TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP THAT
WE WISHED TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AND CONSTRUCTIVE AS
POSSIBLE ON THE ISSUE OF MIGRANT WORKERS' WELFARE. WE
ADVISED HIM THAT, PENDING CONFIRMING INSTRUCTIONS FROM
THE DEPARTMENT, WE GENERALLY TOOK A VERY CAUTIOUS VIEW
REGARDING THE DRAFTING OF NEW INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.
WE INDICATED THAT WHILE WE COULD PROBABLY SUPPORT THE

IDEA OF A SERIOUS AND THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER A NEW INSTRUMENT WAS NEEDED, WE WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDER ANY DECISION NOW TO CALL FOR THE DRAFTING OF A NEW INSTRUMENT AS PREMATURE.

4. THE TURKS ASSURED US THAT WHILE THEY HAD AN OBVIOUS INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD ON MIGRANT WORKERS ISSUES, THEY TOO FELT THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO DECIDE NOW ON WHETHER A NEW CONVENTION OR ANY OTHER INSTRUMENT WAS NEEDED. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY DEVELOP WITH THE HRC SECRETARIAT A RESOLUTION IN TWO PARTS. FIRST THERE WOULD BE FOCUS ON THE SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF MIGRANT WORKERS' CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. SECONDLY THERE WOULD BE A LIST OF SUGGESTIONS THAT COULD BE STUDIED AND PRESENTED IN REPORTS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE HRC. WE REPLIED THAT THIS SEEMED A REASONABLE AND SENSIBLE COURSE TO PURSUE ON THE ISSUE AS A WHOLE.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS DEPT MAY HAVE ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF UN ACTION TO IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF MIGRANT WORKERS FOR A BRIEF STATEMENT WE PROPOSE TO MAKE ON MARCH 1 AND ON TENTATIVE VIEWS WE CONVEYED TO TURKISH CHAIRMAN. USDEL RECOMMENDS THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO SUPPORT "FURTHER STUDY PROPOSALS" WITH ACTION RECOMM-
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ENDATIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE 35TH HRC. SINCE THE GROUP WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ADOPTION ON MARCH 1, WE BELIEVE THAT USG POSITIONS WILL BE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN THE GENERAL RESOLUTION.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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